
EAA Members Newswire

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June 2003



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1. Editorial

WELCOME to the third issue of the re-launched EAA members Newsletter.

We have a packed issue of news and reports this quarter including a brief report on the EAA Annual Congress held in Spain in April, details of the next Congress to be held in Prague in April next year, a workshop report from an EU event in March looking at the tax and accounting implications of IAS post 2005 for Europe and a thought piece on the role of technology in curriculum development based on Professor Phil Recker's speech in one of the Seville Symposia sessions.

The regular sections in our newsletter also appear again of course. This includes the usual current outstanding vacancy details from the EAA website, recent accounting community news, and our quarterly update from our President - this time being from our new President of course following Prof. Jens Elling's hand over to Prof. José Gonzalo at the Seville Congress.

Also to note this quarter - we are pleased to report the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants has agreed to extend their sponsorship of the EAA online presence (including part support for this newsletter therefore) for at least a further year until April, 2004. We are very grateful for their support. To find out more about this Institute see their website at <http://www.cimaglobal.com>. In these pages you will also find details of calls for research proposals, as CIMA is a major funder of academic research in accounting, as well as details of their publishing arm which has a huge range of interesting publications on its list.

As I have requested before, I would very much welcome comments from the community on the value (or otherwise) of the newsletter. Please send me an email to let me know what you think.

Andy Lymer
EAA Newsletter Editor & Web manager
June 2003

The editor can be contacted at <mailto:newswire@eaa-online.org> or on +44 870 7415934

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Schmalenbach Business Review – sbr – is the international edition of the oldest and most prestigious German journal of business. The journal focuses on accounting, finance, taxation, marketing, organization and neo-institutionalism.

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- **Accounting Education** : a quarterly international journal devoted to publishing research-based papers and other information on key aspects of accounting education and training of relevance to practitioners, academics, trainers, students and professional bodies.
- **Accounting, Business & Financial History**: a major journal which covers the areas of accounting history, business history and financial history. As well as providing a valuable international forum for investigating these areas, it aims to explore:
 - the inter-relationship between accounting practices, financial markets and economic development.
 - the influence of accounting on business decision-making.
 - the environmental and social influences on the business and financial world.
- **European Accounting Review** : is the international scholarly journal of the this Association. Devoted to the advancement of accounting knowledge, it provides a forum for the publication of high quality accounting research manuscripts. The journal acknowledges its European origins and the distinctive variety of the European accounting research community. Conscious of these origins, it emphasises openness and flexibility, not only regarding the substantive issues of accounting research, but also with respect to paradigms, methodologies and styles of conducting that research.

To register for this complimentary service, please visit: www.tandf.co.uk/sara

2. Message from the EAA President:

Greetings to all members of the European Accounting Association (EAA).

In this message, I have the pleasure and the honour to be able to address the members as your new President. I want to inform you of some of the major accomplishments of our Association, as well as the endeavours we must develop in order to cope with the main problems and threats our organization is facing presently. My reflections are focused principally on two issues of importance for the Association: firstly the opportunities offered by the enlargement of the European Union and secondly the need to restructure the management of our Association.



I wish to make reference to the success of the last Annual Congress held in Seville in early April. We had around 1.200 attendants and the vast majority of the European countries were represented by delegates. The quality of the scientific programme (symposia, parallel sessions and other events) was only comparable to the hospitality showed by our colleagues from Seville University who were responsible for the organisation and development of the Conference. I would like to thank them most sincerely on behalf of the Association for their effort and efficiency.

On 16th April, 2003 an important event for all Europe took place: the New Treaty of Accession of ten countries (Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia) to the European Union (EU) was signed. This enlargement means, among other things, a set of new opportunities for the European economy, consolidating the power of the EU as the first economic and political Union in the world. However, this fact means more than an interesting headline in the press, because EU politics searched during the last decades to override the old division established after the II World War between countries situated on both sides of the now nonexistent *Iron Curtain*. After the unification of Germany, the next step is to integrate economies and, more importantly to unify the citizens of these countries in the common project of the Union.

I have taken some sentences from the official note which was issued after the EU Commission signed the Treaty in order to enhance the results of this new situation:

“ (The)...enlargement of the European Union will be a historic achievement, ending centuries of division. A reunited Europe means a stronger, democratic and more stable continent able to gain full advantage from an Internal Market of 500 million people”

We are European academics, interested in scientific research and teaching. This “internal market” formed by around 500 million people will mean that a common space will be open to reach more opportunities in the progress of our task. New possibilities for the free movement of people, ideas and knowledge will be developed in the near future, and this can contribute to the development of accounting, auditing and the academic profession related to them in Europe. Some of these countries have been well represented in the Association in the past. Two of them have already hosted an Annual Congress (Hungary and Poland) and another (Czech Republic) will host the EAA Conference in 2004.

I would like to invite all EAA members to work together in order to integrate our common academic tradition to the concerns of these countries and the rest of the Eastern European countries. Most of them have an old and great accounting background, which can help in the mission to build and develop a common body of knowledge. Our Association is, at present, one of the greatest academic organisations in an economic field in Europe. It has more than 1.300 members, in almost all the countries of our Continent. This implies an important level of affiliation, but at the same time gives us power and capacity for action not without however certain difficulties in the management of the Association.

In the last Executive Committee meeting in Seville, the past President of the EAA, Jens Elling, proposed the constitution of a Financial Reporting Standards Commission, formed by members of the different countries, with the mission of discussing and issuing the points of view of the Association on the main regulatory proposals concerning financial reporting in the EU. The constitution of such a Commission intends to cover an important gap. Until now the main comments and opinions on the regulation projects of accounts came from professional and other economic interested parties, from both the public and private sector. Our mission as an academic association is to consider the proposals from a scientific point of view, and to give logical opinions to the regulators. I would like to call on members interested in becoming members of this Commission to contact us so that input can be provided to the regulatory bodies as soon as possible.

After the meeting in Seville, the Executive Committee is considering some other changes related to the functioning of the EAA. In particular, we are concerned by the problems raised in relation to the election procedures in some countries. We would also like to standardise the procedures related to the operation of the Annual Congresses. Some of these management issues will be discussed and elaborated over the next months in order to make some proposals which we would like to submit to the members in the next General Assembly.

Finally, I wish to invite you to all to send your papers, articles etc for consideration to the Scientific Committee of the 27th Annual Congress, to be held in Prague on 1-3 April 2004, where we will have a new opportunity to meet. As in past Congresses, we will have the opportunity to exchange views, research, projects and friendship.

José A. GONZALO
May 2003

3. EAR News and Announcements

Communications from the Editorial Office:

The Editor of *EAR* would kindly like to remind current and potential authors submitting to *EAR* of the following instruction, included in the Notes for contributors:

Authors should submit their article by **e-mail** in MS Word format to the Editor of *EAR*, Prof. Kari Lukka (kari.lukka@tukkk.fi), including an abstract and six keywords suitable for indexing and online search purposes. In addition, **one complete copy of the article should be mailed as a paper hardcopy** to the Editor (Turku School of Economics and Business Administration, Rehtorinpellonkatu 3, FIN-20500 Turku, Finland).

Authors should keep in mind that this applies also when resubmitting a manuscript. Currently, there seems to be some misunderstanding regarding these procedures, which is causing unnecessary work at the Editorial office.

Time from submission to sending Editor's first letter of feedback, including time needed for double-blind peer review in the year 2002 (excluding manuscripts submitted to Special sections):

1 – 8 weeks = 21 %
9 – 16 weeks = 42 %
17 + weeks = 37 %
Range: 1 - 37 weeks
Average: 16 weeks

Contents of next issue of *EAR* (12.3) - due to be released in September 2003

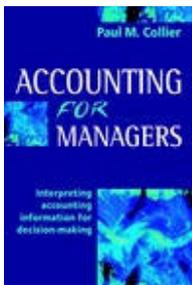
- Labro, E. & Tuomela, T.-S. On bringing more action into management accounting research: Process considerations based on two constructive case studies
- Gill de Albornoz, B. & Alcarria, J.J. Analysis and diagnosis of income smoothing in Spain
- Kosmala-MacLulich, K. The true and fair view construct in the context of Polish transition economy: Some local insights
- Klumpes, P.J.M. Determinants of Government Under-funded Public Pension Liabilities in the OECD

-
- Scheytt, T., Soin, K. & Metz, T. Exploring Notions of Control across Cultures: A Narrative Approach
 - Alexander, D. & Schwencke, H.R. Accounting change in Norway
 - Geerings, J., Bollen, L.H.H. & Hassink, H.F.D. Investor Relations on the Internet: A survey of the Euronext zone

Things you may not have known about the EAR website - <http://www.eaa-online.org/EAR>:

- Full details of each issue of EAR can be found on the EAR home page
 - The website also contains details of the next issue due for publication and accepted papers for future issues - regularly updated as papers are accepted.
 - Author submission guidance is also on this website
 - Latest Call for Papers always go on the EAR website before they go anywhere else
-

ADVERT:



Accounting for Managers - Interpreting Accounting Information for Decision-Making

Paul M Collier, Aston University, UK

Accounting for Managers explains how accounting information is used by non-financial managers. The book emphasises the interpretation, rather than the construction, of accounting information and encourages a critical, rather than unthinking acceptance, of the underlying assumptions behind accounting. It links theory with practical examples and case studies drawn from real life business situations in service, retail and manufacturing industries.

Paul M Collier applies a managerial approach to show how to:

- Understand the relationship between strategy, business events and financial information.
- Use accounting information in planning, decision-making and control.
- Identify the concepts that underlie the construction of accounting reports and the limitations of accounting numbers.

For full details see the Wiley Europe website here:

<http://www.wileyeurope.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-0470845023.html>

4. News

EAA News

News of the EAA and of EAA related events

[01] EIASM WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENTS

EIASM is organising a series of workshops in Accounting. For full details, please visit their website (<http://www.eiasm.org/index1.html>) and select the Functional Calendar of Events.

Accounting events on this list in the near future include (select the hyperlink for further details):

- 13th European Doctoral Summer School in Technology Management - (*Aug 23, 2003 - Aug 31, 2003*)
- Workshop on Implementing IFRS - (*Sep 11, 2003 - Sep 12, 2003*)
- 2nd Conference on Performance Measurement and Management Control - (*Sep 18, 2003 - Sep 19, 2003*)
- EDEN Doctoral Seminar on Quantitative Empirical Research in Management Accounting - (*Dec 8, 2003 - Dec 12, 2003*)
- EDEN Doctoral Seminar on Empirical Financial Accounting Research - (*Apr 26, 2004 - Apr 30, 2004*)

[02] Report: GAE Global Accountancy Education project 1999-2002

A major research project on the 'Impact of Globalisation on Accountancy Education' took place in the period 1999-2002 at the European Institute for Advanced Studies in Management (EIASM) in close cooperation with the International Association for Accounting Education and Research (IAAER), major professional bodies and accountancy firms, the Education Committee of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) and international organisations, including the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB).

The main focus of the Global Accountancy Education study was the professional qualification, education and training of accountants and auditors in public practice. The research project covered 34 professional bodies in 25 countries all over the world. The results of the study provide information that can be used for realistic and achievable guidelines on accountancy education, contribute to a structured implementation of global accounting and auditing standards, promote harmonisation and mutual recognition of qualifications and stimulate the development of accountancy education in various regions of the world.

The GAE homepage can be found at the EIASM website under www.eiasm.org/gae . The International Accounting Standards Committee Foundation (IASCF) has published the research results, which can be acquired through www.iasb.org.uk .

GAE Follow Up:

The Global Accountancy Education research project has resulted in a clear classification of accountancy education and in the description of the professional qualification, education and training of accountants and auditors in selected countries around the world. Based on further discussions with both professional and academic representatives the conclusion has been reached that a permanent information system on accountancy education worldwide can prove an important asset for development and cooperation in the field of accountancy education. Operational plans are being developed and will be presented in the near future.

For further information please contact
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European News

Selected recent European accounting news supplied by AccountingEducation.com

[03] IAS HEALTHCHECK 2003 RELEASED

IASPlus.com have posted the 2003 edition of IAS Healthcheck, prepared by Deloitte & Touche (United Kingdom). This 32-page booklet reviews the implications of changing to IFRS not only with respect to accounting systems and financial reporting but also to other management issues including treasury management; distributions; debt covenants and financing; mergers and acquisitions; management compensation; product development; management information; statutory accounts and taxes; human resources; IT systems; and investor relations.

[04] IVSC PUBLISHES 2003 EDITION OF INTERNATIONAL VALUATION STANDARDS ONLINE

The IVSC has published the 2003 edition of International Valuation Standards, a comprehensive volume of all of its standards. For the first time the standards can be viewed or downloaded without charge from the IVSC Website.

[05] WHITTINGTON WARNS OF IAS

FIREWORKS AHEAD At the annual conference of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales (ICAEW), Professor Geoffrey Whittington CBE, an IASB Board member, warned that there would almost certainly be fireworks ahead in the run up to the introduction of International Accounting Standards in January 2005 and during the consultation period that ends in March 2004.

[06] ENFORCING ACCOUNTING RULES WILL PRESENT CHALLENGES FOR ENLARGED EU SAYS EC LEGAL CHIEF

The consistent and effective enforcement of legislation for financial services and accounting rules by national authorities will present a significant challenge for the enlarged European Union next year. This was the key message delivered by Michel Petite, Director-General, Legal Service for the European Commission, at the Institute of Chartered Accountants' annual conference.

[07] EFRAG COMES OUT IN SUPPORT OF IFRS1

The European Financial Reporting Advisory Group has posted on its Website a draft of its proposed letter to the European Commission recommending that "it is in the European interest" for the Commission to adopt IFRS 1

[08] EC RELEASES REPORT ON MEASURING AND REPORTING ON INTANGIBLE ASSETS

The European Commission - Enterprise Directorate General - has recently published the "Study on the measurement of intangible assets and associated reporting practices". This report is the outcome of a collaboration between the University of Ferrara (lead partner), the Stern Business School (NYU), and the Department of Accounting and Information Systems of the University of Melbourne. The report was edited by Professor Stefano Zambon. [Ed - more details from this report will be given in the next issue of the EAA newsletter]

Other News

Selected recent news from around the world supplied by AccountingEducation.com

[09] PCAOB FORMALLY ADOPTS ETHICS CODE

The US Public Company Accounting Oversight Board has adopted final rules governing the Board's ethical conduct. The purpose of the Ethics Code is to ensure the highest standards of ethical conduct, and to provide the public with confidence in the objectivity of the Board's decisions by seeking to avoid both actual and perceived conflicts of interests. See the full news item for links to further details.

[10] SUSTAINABILITY: A GUIDE TO TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE REPORTING

Australia's Group of 100 lobby group, has published a guide to Triple Bottom Line Reporting. The Guide is available in PDF format from [the group's website](#)

[11] STRENGTHENING INVESTOR CONFIDENCE

In a recent interview, AICPA President & CEO Barry Melancon and Ernst & Young Global Chairman & CEO Jim Turley discuss how the accounting profession has taken steps to strengthen investor confidence in the last year. See our main news article for a link to listen to this discussion as a webcast.

[12] GLOBAL GAAP: THE FUTURE OF CORPORATE REPORTING

In a recently released paper, PricewaterhouseCoopers call for more U.S. constituents to "get in the game" and play a role in the evolution of Global GAAP by contributing to the work of the International Accounting Standards Board - in addition to

contributing to the work of the FASB. See our news article for a link to this paper,

[13] USA GETS NEW EDITION OF GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

David M. Walker, Comptroller General of the United States and head of the U.S. General Accounting office (GAO), today announced release of a new edition of Government Auditing Standards, commonly referred to as the Yellow Book.

[14] VOLCKER MAKES STAND OVER STOCK OPTION REPORTING RULINGS

In early June the Hon Paul Volcker, IASC Foundation Chairman, testified before the US House of Representatives Committee on Financial Services. He noted that if political authorities "seek to override the decisions of the competent professional standard setters...accounting standards will inevitably lose consistency, coherence and credibility, weakening the fabric of the international financial system". See our full news item for more details of Mr Volcker's testimony.

[15] COMMENTS SOUGHT ON IES ON CONTENT OF PROFESSIONAL

EDUCATION PROGRAMS The International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) Education Committee has issued an exposure draft revising requirements in the proposed International Education Standard entitled "Content of Professional Education Programs" and is inviting comments through July 30, 2003.

This news section is produced in conjunction with AccountingEducation.com – the key global community for accounting educators and researchers. Visit their website at <http://accountingeducation.com/subscribe.cfm> to sign up for their **free** weekly news alert service – called Double Entries – and join over 5,000 other weekly readers receiving weekly news such as above.

5. Congress Update

This is our regular review of matters relating to our Association's Annual Congress. For this issue we have both a brief review of the recently past Congress in Seville written by one of the attendees (me!) and notes from the next Congress organisers to help us prepare early for the next event next April.

Looking back to EAA'2003, Seville, Spain - 26th Annual EAA Congress

This year's Spanish Congress was held in Seville at the start of April. I am sure those of you who, like me, were fortunate enough to have been able to attend this conference will agree - we could not have wished for a better venue for the event. The city of Seville played the perfect host providing us with a magnificent Cathedral to have our concert in, historic buildings to host our receptions and the fantastic pavilions of the Expo site for our gala dinner. On the academic side of the Congress, there were nine Symposia, in addition to the Opening plenary session (see the last newsletter for full details), more than 135 sessions for presented papers, each with either two or three papers being presented in fifteen parallel streams across the three days (466 papers in total) and a research forum where papers were discussed even more directly between delegates and presenters (218 papers). In total 1,153 delegates were present at the event from 43 different countries. A truly international event however you measure it.

On behalf of those who attended I would like to thank to Congress organisers again for all the hard work they undertook to organise this complex event. Only those who have already been part of such an organisation understand what hosting the EAA Annual Congress really means!

[Picture right: Professors Sierra (EAA 2004 Congress Chairman), Elling (2003 EAA president) and Gonzalo (2004 EAA President) at the EAA Annual General Meeting]



Andy Lymer - EAA Newsletter Editor

[Editors Note - all the abstracts from the EAA'2003 can be accessed online as part of our EAA website Presentations Archive - check out the Annual Congress section of the site at <http://www.eaa-online.org/>. This searchable database also contains all abstracts from the Athens Congress in 2001 and the Copenhagen Congress in 2002 whilst our old site contains presentation information all the way back to Birmingham in 1995 for each presentation given at each Congress]

Report from the PwC Doctoral Colloquium in Accounting 2003

This year's PwC Doctoral Colloquium was held in Alcala de Guadaira which is just outside Sevilla. The chosen venue, the Hotel Oromana, is nicely located in a park just outside the village of Alcala de Guadaire. This was an ideal place for the colloquium. It was impossible to escape from the premises. The students represented schools from 10 countries and in terms of nationality they represented 11 countries. This included the representative from AAA, Jonathan Rogers, University of Pennsylvania. This year the competition to get into the

colloquium was very tough as we received 53 applications for the 17 slots that were available.

The subjects of the proposals presented by students this year covered a wide variety of accounting research: Capital market research at one extreme and Management Accounting Change at the other extreme. A number of the participants in this year's Doctoral Colloquium were affiliated with the Harmonia Project (<http://www.bangor.ac.uk/harmonia/>). Also,

intangible assets was a very popular topic this year. Finally, Corporate Governance had its share of the projects. The quality of the projects presented at this year's Colloquium was high, indicating an increasing quality of doctoral research in Europe. The faculty selected Anette Mikes, London School of Economics, as the PwC Doctoral Colloquium's representative at the AAA Doctoral Consortium.

The faculty this year was David Cooper, University of Alberta (Canada), Tom Groot, Vrije Universiteit (The Netherlands), Christian Leutz, University of Pennsylvania (USA), Jan Mouritsen, Handelshøjskolen i København (Denmark), Peter Pope, University of Lancaster (UK), Michael Shields, Michigan State University (USA), Alfred Wagenhofer, Universität Graz (Austria), and myself, Syddansk Universitet (Denmark). This makes up a truly international faculty. The faculty and students provided substantial feedback to the student's proposals. In addition, David

Cooper gave a plenary lecture on Management Accounting Research from a sociological perspective and Alfred Wagenhofer delivered a plenary lecture on Financial Accounting Research from an analytical perspective.

PricewaterhouseCoopers sponsored this year's PwC Doctoral Colloquium just as they have sponsored the previous five colloquia. We owe much to PricewaterhouseCoopers for their long-term commitment to doctorate education and the development of accounting research in Europe. This represents a major investment in accounting research in Europe and in the European Accounting Association. I sincerely hope that the research will pay this back in terms of research and future partners of the accounting firms. I would like to take this opportunity to thank PricewaterhouseCoopers.

John Christensen
University of Southern Denmark

Student Comments on the Doctoral Colloquium:

The colloquium was a wonderful experience, we all learned a lot from each other and it really enhanced our general perspective.

Between sessions and during sometimes hectic (due to the language barrier) – but very good – lunches, we had plenty of time to get to know each other. The international diversity around a common research theme, accounting, really led to some stimulating discussions.

So, if you have the chance, do not hesitate to fill in the application and experience yourselves what I am talking about. After all, when do you have a bunch of experts (faculty as well as students) willing to read what you have written, and give their "expert" opinion on it.

Xavier Gabriëls
University of Antwerp, Belgium

It was a strange experience to meet people whom I had associated only with papers first - initially we joked about replacing name badges with title badges, e.g. Ms Corporate Governance, Mr ERPS. It did not take long before we felt we had known each other for longer than a day or two. During the sessions we helped each other not only by comments but also by an informal arrangement of taking notes for each other of all comments made on our presentations. This left each of us with a long to-do-list, which alone would have made the Colloquium a valuable academic experience.

Another fascinating aspect of the Colloquium was to get close to the faculty – again, some of them initially known to us only in an abstract sense, as authors of papers we had come across in our previous studies. Their friendliness and helpfulness made us feel truly special.

Anette Mikes
London School of Economics

Looking forward to EAA'2004, Prague, Czech Republic - 27th Annual Congress



The 27th Annual Congress of the European Accounting Association will be held in Prague, in the Czech Republic from April 1st to 3rd, 2004. For us, this Congress is also a celebration, because it will take place just one month before the Czech Republic officially joins the European Union.

The organisation of the congress has been entrusted to the University of Economics, Prague (UEP), which follows in the long tradition of economic and commercial education in the Czech lands.

In 1919, the Prague College of Commerce was established to meet the needs of the new state. In 1990, the curriculum of the UEP was completely restructured to provide the necessary setting for education in the changing economic and business environment. In 1998 the UEP became a full member of the Community of European Management Schools (CEMS) and in 1999 a full member of an international consortium of business schools Programme in International Management (PIM). The UEP has 14 000 students and provides a variety of programmes for study and research in 6 faculties (Finance and Accounting, International Relations, Business Administration, Informatics and Statistics, Economics and Public Administration, and Management).

Prague, a historical crossroad where many merchants, artists and scientists met in the Middle Ages, is considered to be one of the most beautiful cities in Europe. As the capital of the Czech Republic, known as "Golden Prague" and "The City of 100 Spires", Prague is situated in the very heart of Europe and has an impressive history. The economic and cultural importance of Prague increased considerably during the reign of Charles IV. In 1348 the first university in Central Europe was founded in the city. The historical quarters in the centre were included in 1993 in the UNESCO register of World Cultural Heritage for their unique character.

Key dates of Conference:

- Deadline for submission of abstracts and papers: 3 November 2003.
- Authors to be notified of acceptance/rejection of abstracts: 2 February 2004.
- Deadline for submission of full paper: 1 March 2004.

The 27th congress will also be preceded by the doctoral colloquium, which will take place from the 29th to the 31st of March 2004. Another event of importance that will accompany the congress is the 7th annual European Conference on Accounting Information Systems (ECAIS), which will take place on March 30 and 31 of the same year. More information can be found online <http://www.eaa-online.org/EAA2004>. From September 2003, it will also be possible to register for the congress online at the same address.

On behalf of the organising and scientific committee of the EAA'2004 Congress we would thus like to extend a very warm invitation to all the EAA's members and all other interested professionals as well.

Congress Organising team - EAA'2004

6. Other Events

Listed below are brief details of other (i.e non-EAA) events that we have been notified about that we consider to be of possible interest to members:

- **The 7th Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Accounting Conference**
Event dates: 13-Jul-2003 to 16-Jul-2003
Sponsor: Universidad Carlos III de Madrid
City: Madrid
The IPA conference is an established forum for research into the social, political and organizational aspects of accounting theory and practice. For the first time in its 18-year history the IPA will be held outside of Manchester. The IPA 2003 will retain the most distinctive features of past IPAs including: a thorough review of papers received and the presentation of papers by discussants with responses from the author. See the full event listing for further details
- **Centre for Social and Environmental Accounting Research (CSEAR) - 13th Summer School**
1-Sep-2003 to 3-Sep-2003
Sponsor: Centre for Social and Environmental Accounting Research
City: Dundee
This Conference is normally a deliberately informal gathering of researchers, teachers, students and practitioners concerned with social and environmental accounting, teaching and research in the very widest sense.
- **4th International Conference for the British Accounting Association Special Interest Group in Corporate Governance**
12-Dec-2003 to 13-Dec-2003
Sponsor: British Accounting Association
- **Tenth Accounting and Management History Conference**
25-Mar-2004 to 26-Mar-2004
Sponsor: Association Francophone de Comptabilite
City: Besancon, France
In the 10th annual conference we wish to provide an historical perspective on current questions related to the control of the company and control within the company.
- **7th European Conference on Accounting Information Systems**
Event dates: 30-Mar-2004 to 31st-Mar-2004
City: Prague (immediately before the 27th EAA Congress)
This annual event, brings together academics and practitioners interested in the latest development in accounting information systems research and teaching in a European context. The event is sponsored by CIMA, Bentley College, Elsevier Science publishers, the Universities of Maastricht and Birmingham

Further details on each event can be found on the EAA website at <http://www.eaa-online.org/other/index.cfm>

Workshop Report - European Commission Workshop on Tax implications of Application of IAS in 2005 - 18 March 2003, Brussels

A workshop was arranged by the European Commission to explore issues raised by its Consultation Document 'The application of International Accounting Standards (IAS) in 2005 and the implications for the introduction of a consolidated tax base for companies' EU-wide activities'. Representatives of non-governmental organisations with an interest in taxation and accounting were present to explore the issues in the consultation document in greater detail.

The important issue behind the consultation document is that tax problems arising from transfer pricing and cross-border losses could be eliminated if the consolidated financial statements were used as the basis for calculating tax liabilities. The taxes calculated in this way could then be apportioned between Member States according to some formula. Its main thrust was to consider whether IAS consolidated financial statements would be an appropriate tax base. The project envisaged by the working paper would be ambitious insofar as it would involve radical re-thinking of the calculation and administration of taxation. Although they were clearly outside the scope of the paper, it was difficult to avoid discussing the social and political issues to be overcome by such a change, the mechanics of dealing with groups that were not wholly European and the effect on individual companies (and unincorporated businesses), in particular SMEs.

There was consensus that IAS would be a good starting point for a tax base. It was recognised that IAS should provide a basis for greater comparability of financial statements across Europe than has been the case hitherto. There was a feeling that, over time, national GAAP would become indistinguishable from IAS, even where 'officially' national GAAP was still in use for unlisted companies. The use of IAS in Eastern Europe is already well established, so the enlargement of the EU would not pose further problems in this regard. The economies associated with the preparation of a single set of financial information for both commercial and taxation purposes was seen as being attractive and could contribute to enhanced European profitability.

The predominance of tax specialists at the workshop placed an emphasis on reservations about using accounting standards designed to meet users' (primarily investors') needs for a different purpose (i.e. calculating tax) and a number of adjustments were expected to be necessary. There was concern that a number of the issues associated with the 'fair value' accounting of IAS would involve too much of a paradigm shift from tax traditions such as recognition only of realised gains. Nevertheless, it was conceded that proposed developments from the IASB (such as the three column income statement) might go a good way to resolving such difficulties. At times the language used was emotive, such as contributors wanting to avoid the 'pollution' of tax by IAS.

The current dynamic state of accounting standards and the relationship between tax and commercial accounts (referred to in the document as 'dependency') did not make discussions any easier. There were tensions between speakers representing countries that had broken the dependency and those where dependency is increasing. It was suggested that the movement towards greater dependency in the UK reflected the increased robustness of accounting standards: this would be true of IAS too. The tension between tax minimisation and investor needs can have a useful restraining effect on the directors, which can have benefits for the shareholders in the longer term with regard to companies' survival. It was argued that the variations in dependency across Europe are the product of a series of 'historical accidents'; if we were to now contrive a 'pan-European historical accident' we might make some useful progress. It was also suggested that the present perception of national tax bases is in fact a mirage: tax bases are already coming closer together and the use of IAS would facilitate that process.

The subjectivity of certain concepts underlying IAS (notably materiality) was anathema to some of the tax specialists, who were more accustomed to objective rules applicable to all taxable persons. The success of using the consolidated accounts as the tax base across Europe would

be dependent on similar approaches being taken in all Member States. There was some support for establishing some kind of 'Tax EFRAG' to interpret IAS for use as a tax base. This would ensure national interpretations could not be introduced. Nevertheless the dangers of introducing an additional layer of bureaucracy were recognised. The process of introducing the decisions of the 'Tax EFRAG' into the 'legislation' of the EU and Member States would also need further consideration. Suggestions for the mechanics for this ranged from Directives to Regulations and Recommendations.

A number of areas for further research were identified:

- Review and investigation of the US experience of introducing federal income tax
- Comprehensive analysis of current differences between tax accounts and IAS in Member States at individual company level
- The European Commission made attempts to harmonise tax bases between Member States in the 1980s – to what extent has this been achieved?

The consultation document will be published on the website at : http://europa.eu.int:8082/comm/taxation_customs/taxation/company_tax/index.htm A formal summary of the workshop and written submissions on the document will be published in due course.

by Sally Aisbitt, Open University Business School - 19 March, 2003

7. Job Adverts

Following are currently outstanding vacancies from our vacancy advertising service offered via our website. Further details on each position can be found on the website.

- **Assistant Professor in Management Control**
Institution: HEC School of Business of the University of Lausanne, Switzerland
Deadline for applications: 30 June, 2003
- **Lectureship in Accounting/Finance**
Institution: Queen's University of Belfast
Deadline for applications: 10 July, 2003

Our full vacancy service can be found on the EAA website at <http://www.eaa-online.org/vac/index.cfm> and on our web management companies website at <http://accountingeducation.com/jobs>

For future editions of this newsletter, all outstanding vacancies with deadlines beyond the publication date of each issue will be listed here. If you have a vacancy you would like to have advertised to the membership please email details to the editor to have them included here, and on the website (note - a small charge applies for this service)

Send vacancy details by email to the Editor at jobs@eaa-online.org

Send vacancy details by email to the Editor at <mailto:jobs@eaa-online.org>

8. Other Content...

Thought piece: Advancing Curriculum Change in Technology - by Professor Philip Reckers, Arizona State University (based on presentation given at EAA 2004 - Symposium 9)

It came as a thief in the night. The erosion of accountancy's relevance was gradual and unrecognized until gapping holes began to appear in the landscape. Technological innovation was the relentless rain that eroded our discipline's currency. Aggressive global competition was the gale wind that accelerated change and obsolescence. In the end, however, it was complacency that inflicted the deepest wounds and left our academic institutions unprepared for the future. While different universities have different missions, on the whole, too many academics, for too long, have been complacent: willing to excuse inaction in curriculum innovation in technology, and elsewhere, with a litany of alleged justifications. We steadfastly, as a group, have refused to educate, *even ourselves*, about the rapidly changing business environment in which our students must "compete." We succumbed to the "Arrogance of Ignorance." The academic accounting profession is now behind the proverbial 8-ball, and the window of opportunity to recapture our relevance in business and academia is closing. The costs of reinventing our programs can indeed be high; the costs of not doing so can be higher, still.

Businesses, daily, face the challenge: "Change or Die!" Academic programs face a similar challenge. If the academic accounting community "remains above," and non-responsive to, the changing needs of society; others will replace us. Signs already appear in industry of this happening as students of engineering, and MIS programs are assuming expanding roles and accountants shrinking roles. Others are replacing accountants as gatekeepers to business intelligence. Others are ascending as key players in the management and interpretation of business information. In a recent study conducted in conjunction with the Accounting Programs' Leadership Group (APLG), once again industry leaders in the U.S. called for significantly greater attention in accounting curricula to: Business Process Analysis, ERP Concepts and Software, E-Business Concepts

and Software and Management Consulting (Reckers, Solomon & Hastings, 2003). Further, one hundred and fifty-two US accounting department chairs conceded little progress had been achieved over the last decade in technology integration in curricula. Impediments to change over the last decade, however, have changed. No longer included among the list of major impediments to integration of technology are: Congruence with Pedagogical Objectives, Support of Upper Administration, Software Availability, Economic Feasibility or Technology Infrastructure. All of these factors can or have been overcome. The remaining sole, major impediment is "Faculty Expertise" and willingness to learn and change.

Also, lacking, across the decade of the 90's, has been any organization to direct a collective effort to advance curriculum change in technology. Every school has been left "on their own" to deal with change. Our various associations have failed to assume leadership. While financial costs of technology integration have diminished over time, individual faculty costs can still be daunting. It behoves us to learn from past mistakes, because we have a limited continuing window of opportunity.

There have been advances recently; we should not ignore these. But, we need more. We are playing catch up. ECAIS (the annual European Conference on Accounting Information Systems held just before the European Accounting Association annual meeting each year) continues to nourish champions in this area. Next year will also mark Steve Sutton and Ken Harmon's Fourth Annual International Symposium on Accounting Information Systems (held in conjunction with the ICIS conference). The American Accounting Association also has recently exhibited new-found enthusiasm for accounting information systems, and it should be congratulated for this. In addition to support of the Journal of Information Systems, the AAA sponsors an annual AIS

Conference and in the summer of 2003, hosted the second week long AAA Workshop on Teaching AIS, in cooperation with Michigan State University. These workshops have provided tangible take-aways for attendees that hold the promise of making a difference prospectively in AIS courses within accounting curriculum. However, these efforts have been largely directed at AIS research and “*THE AIS course*” and have captured modest participation. The AAA Workshop on Teaching AIS is notable for its dedicated focus on teaching. Julie David, Harriet MacCracken and I were also fortunate to receive the cooperation of J. D. Edwards in developing an interactive CD for use as a supplement in Introductory Financial Accounting courses. This major effort has been recognized with the 2003 AAA Innovation in Accounting Education Award. The CD is distributed by ITP Southwestern and emphasizes Business Process Analysis and ERP. However, that undertaking addressed the needs of only one course in the accounting curriculum and is not self-sustaining.

Current I am involved with a team who are engaged in the launch of perhaps the first collective effort at technology integration. Over the next three years, SAP will fund faculty from various institutions to develop supplemental course materials for six sequential undergraduate accounting courses. Two Interactive CDs are nearing completion at this time for introductory financial and managerial accounting. These CD’s (1) showcase for students how to strategically leverage technology, (2) emphasize the advantages of data-driven decision making, (3) impose no or minimal training costs on faculty, (4) rely on bite-sized

supplements to courses and (5) ensure high student satisfaction. The CD’s require about 1 hour per week of independent student study time. The CD’s are interactive and mimic SAP technology and screens. The only costs are the costs of the CDs absorbed by the students. At this time we solicit colleagues, worldwide, to join this collective initiative; volunteer to review the in-process CD’s and provide suggestions for improvement. If you or your institution is interested in participating, contact me at Philip.Reckers@asu.edu.

While we have invested significant efforts to coordinate a collective effort in this arena others may choose to move forward with their own initiatives. We welcome those efforts as well, and offer the following advice from those who have toiled for so long in these fields. First, early successes are critical. Start with modest goals and build momentum. Second avoid intense controversies that lead to debates from which there are no victors. Additionally, do not develop a high cost elective course that serves only a small portion of the student body, or that emphasizes vocational data entry ERP skills which have modest market value in the long run, and for which universities have no comparative advantage in training. Integrate technology across several courses, thus reducing the costs on any one faculty member or course and providing reinforcement of concepts for students across time and concepts (courses). Also, address from the inception how to not only develop new course materials, but also how to continually reinvent materials and keep them current. Good luck. Non sibi, sed allis.

[Editors Note: Professor Reckers was Director of the School of Accounting and Information Management at Arizona State University for 10 years. Under his leadership, this School has become well recognised as one of the leading institutions of the world in the effective integrating of technology and business education, both as a practical learning tool, and as a subject of academic study. He was also a member of the AACSB accreditation board until recently.]

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